

Centennial celebration

Lifelong resident honored

BY SUSANNA SHEEHAN
CLIPPER STAFF

On Monday, the Board of Selectmen convened their weekly meeting in an unusual place for a very unique reason – they met in the Temple Street living room of lifetime Duxbury resident Stan Merry in order to honor his upcoming 100th birthday.

All three selectmen, Town Manager RenRead, Conservation Administrator Joe Grady and Duxbury's State Representative Josh Cutler met at 6 p.m. at Merry's house. Selectmen presented Merry with a proclamation honoring him and his years of dedication and service to the town and for his stewardship of hundreds of acres of cranberry bogs. "Be it resolved that the

Continued on page 11

Centennial celebration

Lifelong resident Stanley Merry honored

Continued from page 1

Town of Duxbury, through the Board of Selectmen, sends its heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Stanley H. Merry on May 22, 2015, the centennial celebration of his birth," read Selectmen Chairman Ted Flynn from the proclamation. "Duxbury is truly blessed by his presence and by all that he has done throughout his lifetime."

The proclamation described Merry as a "master of Yankee ingenuity" who "has been a steward of the land through his purchase and cultivation of cranberry bogs for many years." It acknowledged his devotion to the Pilgrim Church and his contributions to it during "trying times" as well as his efforts to obtain a new church organ.

Cutler gave Merry a framed citation signed by Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker congratulating him on the "joyous occasion of his milestone birthday."

Selectman Shawn Dahlen, who organized the living room recognizance, presented Merry with a large framed photograph from the 1980s of the cranberry grower in a bog during harvest time surrounded by a sea of crimson.

Merry acknowledged the gifts from the comfort of his recliner and took part in the shower of photographs that followed the brief ceremony, including smiling for Cutler's "selfie" photograph on his phone.

In addition to his lifelong contributions to the town and his church, the selectmen wanted to honor Merry for his willingness to work with the town to preserve his cranberry bogs and other open space. In March, voters at the annual Town Meeting spent \$1.98 million in Community Preservation Act funds to buy 267 acres of cranberry bogs and other land owned by Merry.

The purchase included the Gifford cranberry bog along Church and Temple Streets, the Cedar Crest cranberry bogs on both sides of Temple Street, five parcels at the Waiting Hill preserve near town well sites, and the North Hill dam, which controls the level of water in the North Hill Marsh, as well as six acres of buildable land.

This acquisition has been hailed by town officials as monumental for preserving both open space and the town's agricultural heritage. The majority of the cranberry bogs will remain as working bogs.



The Duxbury Board of Selectmen, Town Manager RenRead, Conservation Administrator Joe Grady and State Representative Josh Cutler honored lifelong Duxbury resident Stan Merry on his upcoming 100th birthday. Selectmen convened their Monday meeting at Merry's Temple Street house near the cranberry bogs and conservation land the town recently bought from Merry. l to r Read, Grady, Selectman David Madigan, Selectman Shawn Dahlen, Selectman Ted Flynn, State Rep. Cutler.

Photo by Susanna Sheehan